

K. Great Britain George II King

# MEMORIAL

FOR THE

People of SCOTLAND,

OR

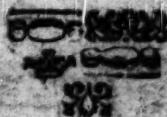
Some brief Animadversions on the In-  
famous Act

OF THE

BRITISH PARLIAMENT

Unjustly imposed on the Ministers and  
People in this Land, on the seventh of  
August 1737.

With a brief account of the Life of John  
Porteous.



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DUBLIN, Printed in the Year 1737.

P R E F A C E.

**T**O you who are under the Sword of cruel Persecution, under the Lions Paw, under the Tearing Claws of the G—— Eagle to you I say be comforted, but lift up your Heads for the Day of your Redemption draweth near, your Enemies Foot shall slide in due Time, the vengeance of the Lord and the Vengeance of his Temple shall pursue and overtake them, for their Pride Tyranny and Persecution, he will plead your Cause, execute Judgment for you, and will bring forth your Righteousness as the Sun, and great shall your Reward be, when the Malediction and woe, of. Uaiah x. 1. Shall light upon the Head and Heart of his Enemies, Amen, Hallelujah.



A Memorial for the People of Scotland, &c.

**G**ive Ear all ye People, he that justifieth the wicked and condemneth the Just or Righteous, are both an Abomination to the Lord, *Prov. xviii* and *15 verse*. both which are evidently manifest in the respective Objects in the Series, or Progress of the History of *John Porteous* of wicked and unhappy Memory, who was justly condemned both by the Laws of God and Man, and as justly Executed by Persons who detested his horrible Murders and other Crimes, and had a Love for Mercy and Justice, and for Fear of the Wrath of God impendent on this Land for the same, and the due Regard for and Love to the Interest of their Country; were I suppose, the Motives that induced them to that brave and laudible undertaking. And yet the same is cryed down, censur'd and condemned as the worst of Crimes, and the Persons branded as Rebels, and Rioters and what not. But by whom, only by Murderers and Court Parasites, the Loose, the Pro-



phane, by Strumpets and Debauchies, who were his Companions in Wickedness, who rebrates the Loss of him, as these lewd Women in *Ezekiel viii. Chap. 7. v.* did for *Tammuz*. 'Tis most certain, it would never entred into the Heads of these Noble *Actors* to execute the Law, upon *that Monster of Men*, if these that assumes the Legislative and Executive Power, either would or had intended to do it. But on the contrary a Vermine of Villains taking upon them the Stiles and Titles of Nobility, and Gentry, did Ride and Run, hurry and go about, to get and gather and procure Subscriptions to Petition the *Legislator* for a Pardon or Reprive to that notorious Criminal: Accordingly by these base wicked and unworthy Means, a Pardon or Reprive was procured in order to rescue the Massacrer from *Justice*, delude the Law and mock the World. Therefore a Necessity was laid upon them to do as they did, and the Power of the Murdering Enemies being so great, made them imitate *Gideon's* Example, to do it by Night, when they could not do it by Day. And when the Court, the Subscribers and all the Debauchees, saw that Divine Providence had Intervened, outwitted, baffled and Countermined all their wicked Schemes and Projects, and Justice had laid hold upon and snatch-



snatched away their beloved *Minion* to his Place, then they storm'd, Raged and Raved, and cry'd alas ! what had they more like *Micha* when he lost his Silver Gods. Then some posted to the Court (their only Refuge in the Day of their Distress) and from thence procured a most violent and virulent Proclamation to be issued out, and afterwards a far more violent and wicked Act, offering a vast Reward to any Person or Persons to Pursue and Persecute, Seize and apprehend, and cause to Perish these poor Innocents, they Thirsting for their Blood like so many rapacious Vulturs. Which unjust Act we shall a little animadvert upon afterwards.

In the mean Time, People at a Distance that knew nothing of the Matter, would be tempted to think that surely this *Porteous* was some worthy Person, an eminent Saint of the first Magnitude, a noted and prime Pillar of State and Church, that without him they could not Stand, yea, that his Removal would sap and unhinge the very Foundation of the Government, and bring all to the utmost Confusion.

WE shall see what sort of Saint and Pillar he was, by giving a short summary of his Life. *John Porteous* was Born of Poor but Honest Parents, and was by them educate, as well as they could, and bred to the  
Taylor

Taylor Craft, and in his riper Years left the same and went into the Army, and 'tis credibly reported, he committed Murder there (as Preparative for his after Practice) He came Home and resumed his Trade; but being most Villanous from his Youth, stubborn and disobedient to his Parents, he cursed them and beat them as some yet alive, can Witness, he maltreat his Wife and separate from her, and wallowed in all kind of Debaucherys, and was Pimp to all or most of the Godless Graceless Rakes in and about *Edinburgh*, was a constant and habitnal Swearer and Blasphemer of the Name of God. A notorious prophaner of the *Sabbath* by Gaming and otherways, a Mockers at, and hater of all Religion, and added to all these Capital Crimes, a most dreadful unheard of Massacre, of about 20 or 30 Innocent Persons killed and wounded, (altho' Satan in the Mouth of his lying Emisaries in a false printed List would abridge them to a much fewer Number) without the least Provocation given. Lo this is the Man (or rather Monster that the worshipful Subscribers set up for and the Pious Court pardoned) the wise Parliament have enacted in his Favours, and has a Mind to sacrifice many innocent Persons to the Manes of his Ghost and to the honour of his Memory. By this Relation, any may see, that such a complication

plication of Crimes, did scarce ever center in one Person since the Days of *Adam*, which the very Earth groans under him, now this is the Court Saint, the beloved Darling of the Government, the Favorite of the Parliament, for whose sake they have raised and intends to raise a most Bloody Persecution against his Antagonists, and taken up near five Months Time in declaring a plain Honest Man uncapable, and settling an exorbitant Revenue on a Cook Maid, and Contriving framing and Publishing a most sinful shameful Scandalous and most wicked Act, so hainous in 'tis Nature, so Monstrous in its size and Shape, so Blasphemous in its Matter, Manner, End and Design, that one would imagine, that it were hatched in Hell at *Rome* or *Lambeth*.

LET us now take a short View of this noble Act, in the Matter, Manner and End thereof. Both the Good or bad Qualities of any or all of these makes any Action good and valid or sinful, and so 'tis void and of none Effect.

1<sup>st</sup>, 'Tis said in the Title or Preamble of the Act, *the barbarous Murder of John Porteous*, an affronted Lie in the beginning as a shrewd sign, what the rest of the Libel will be, can it be Murder, far less a Barbarous Murder, to put a condemned Criminal to Death? condemned both by the  
Law



Law of God and Man, as said is, and that in the very same Manner that the Law directs, can an usurped Power Pardon a Murderer or make void the Law of God? A Power which neither God nor Man ever gave to any Mortal, there being not the least vestige of Warrant in all the Word of God, but the quite contrary Prohibition, as *Gen. ix. and 6. verse.* *He that sheddeth Man's Blood, by Man shall his Blood be shed.* There is the Law Royal, neither is it so bounded, circumscribed and Tyed to a set of Men in Office at all Times, in all Cases and Circumstances, no the Command is given to Men in general and many Instances can be given in sacred and prophane Records, that others besides these in Office, have done execution upon Notorious offenders and Malefactors, and that with Approbation, and Rewards from God and Man: For their heroick Actions! *Num. xxxv. Chap. 31, 32 and 33 ver.* *Who so killeth any Person, the murderer shall be put to Death by the Mouth of Witnesses. Ye shall take no Satisfaction for the Life of a Murderer; but he shall surely be put to Death.* That cuts off all at once all claim of Prerogative to pardon Murderers; and for any sinful Worm to presume to dispence with the Divine Law, and arrogantly to usurp the alone Prerogative of the great JEHOVAH, is Robbery Sacrilege and high Treason

Treason against the Majesty of Heaven and Earth, for which wicked attempt, they will one Day pay dear. Moreover, nor can it be supposed that any People in their right Wits would be so wanting to themselves, as to give a Power to any Person or Persons whatsoever to their own Destruction as to pardon their Murderers, would be an encouragement to all Assassins or Ruffians to cut their Throats, when they may do it with impunity by fleeing to the Sanctuary of a Pardon Monger for Relief and safety. And if any such brutal servile Slaves are found so to do, they ought to be held and reputed by all the rational part of Mankind as abominable, detestable and execrable. Now since no such assumed Power can be deduced from the Holy Scriptures nor the consent of the People, it follows plainly then, that it was borrowed from the cursed Pope of Rome, who most villanously and unjustly claims a Power to pardon where the Word of God Condemns.

2dly, As to the matter of the Act, 'tis said: Be it enacted by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal &c. How will this *Abdod* Speech sound in a Presbyterian Ministers Mouth at any Time; but more especially on the holy *Sabbath*, and in the Time of Divine Worship, to acknowledge and Homologate the Office and Authority of the

Twenty six Antichristian Knights of the black Order in *England* (Brats issuing from Antichrist's foul Womb) to be their Dictators, Judges and Lawgivers combined, no doubt with Satan and the Pope to insnare the Ministers of the Church of *Scotland*, to whom they have an implacable hatred for their small opposition they make to their Antechristian Kingdom of Darknes; preparing them by this Pile to swallow down greater Matters provided for them, such arrogant and Blasphemous Titles, belongs to no Mortal, none being Lord of Spirits but our Lord JESUS CHRIST, the alone King and Head of his Church; but these Lordly and Tyranical Prelates, will needs be called of Men *Rabbi*, when one is the Master, even Christ they will needs be the Highest and Head above their Brethren, when they the Prophets that teacheth Lies are but the Tail, *they will be Lords over God's Heritage* instead of being ansamples to feed the Flock, according to the Rule of the Word, they will be intangled with the Affair of this Life and meddle in civil Matters, for all which Offices, principles and practices of these Knights Errants, not one word of Warrant in all the New Testament.

3dly. This Tyranical Act not only encourages but hires Men with a great Reward to be the greatest Villains that ever were upon



upon the face of the Earth, by delating, giving up and bringing to the murdering Shambles any innocent Person whatsoever that they have a Pick or prejudice at, or if two Rogues can but agree together as thousands of such Varlets may be found, and no doubt will soon appear (when they are so much encouraged) to swear any innocent Person out of his Life and Fortune, altho' he were a hundred Miles distant from the Place when that just Execution Commenced, especially when they are allowed to be Evidences against the Men, which is flatly contrair to all laws Divine and Humane, and is such an Inwasion on Justice and the liberties and Properties of Mankind, that it outdoes all the Tyrannical Laws that ever flowed from any *Turkish* or *Tartarian* Tyrant that ever Trampled upon the Privileges of Men, since they were placed upon the Earth,

athly, This Act prohibites Persons from doing the greatest good, viz. Christian Charity in relieving the poor and distressed, harbouring the oppressed and persecuted, tho' never so near of Kin to them, and that under the pain of Death and Destruction, Punishments only due to Capital Crimes, seeing the doing of this is a real and incumbent Duty to persons, deserving rather a Reward than such cruel and barbarous

Treatment for their Duty to God and the whole Land, by taking away a condemned Bloody Wretch from the Earth, when such a superlative Transgressor could not but be pondrons and Heavy upon it.

5thly, As to the Manner of exhibiting this Act is most sinful, it being to be Read by the Minister of every Parish Church in *Scotland*, making the Ambassador of the KING of Kings to do the drudgery Work of scoundrel Messengers and Heralds, pouring the utmost Contempt upon the sacred Office of the Minister, rendering their persons and Ministry odious, base and contemptible before all the People, when they see them made Slaves and Drudges to the Lust, Rage and Dictates of wicked irreligious and dissolute Men, and instead of hearing from their Mouth the Doctrine of Salvation and Word of Life, they must be obliged to have their Ears defiled with the Poor, insipid, dry, sinful and malignant Acts of Parliament, contrair to Scripture and right Reason.

6thly, AND as a further Disgrace upon the Ministry and People of *Scotland*, they will needs have it read within the Church, even in the very Pulpit, and that too, in the Time of Divine Worship, now this is such a piece of Tyranny upon the Consciences, never practised, even by the Imposers of the Book  
of

of Sports the black Test, the wicked and Tyranical Acts in the late Times, they being always promulgate in Places of publick Resort or else if in the Church, after all the publick Worship was over and done.

7thly, AND that which is worst of all and transcends all the rest in Heaven daring wickedness, is, that they will have their Act read on the Lords Day or holy *Sabbath*, and that in contempt of God and Defiance of Heaven, an open and avowed violation of his holy Law, who commands us to remember the *Sabbath* Day to keep it Holy ; but these Men have framed Iniquity into a Law, and commands the breach of the Lords Day under severe Penalties. Can such a Parliament as this be reckoned Christians, will not all the World that makes the *Sabbath* their Delight, and the Holy of the Lord Honourable, account them practical Atheists, at least that regards neither God nor his Day ? Can or will any of the Ministers of *Scotland* be so void of the Fear of God and destitute of all Sense of Conscience and Duty, as to comply with, or submit to any such *Erasian* Mandate, or obey any wicked Law, so destructive to and evereive of all Religion, leading Men into the Paths of wickedness to forget God, blaspheme his Name, and prophane his holy Day and commit all sorts of Sin and Wickedness with



with Greediness (as they do themselves) to the provoking a Holy and Jealous God, to Wrath and Anger, and to power out his Fury like Fire upon such a Generation of his wrath, and a Land of such Abominations as this. And if any Minister shall be found to give implicate Faith and blind Obedience to these unjust and sinful Commands, flowing from an *Eraastian* Foundation, they can never after be held and reputed to be the Ministers of Christ, but the Ministers of Men and Satan, and no better than *Baals* Priests whom *Elijah* and the People of *Israel* made an Example of to all Generations afterwards to imitate.

8thly, The End and Design of this Diabolical Act, is to Debauch the Consciences, to encourage Louseness, Prophanity and Immoralities, and Mock and ridicule all Religion, and banish the fear of God quite out of the Land, to raze and ruin all our Rights, Privileges and Securities, both Sacred and Civil that are left remaining undestroyed since the wicked and unhallowed Union, which this Act and its furious Imposition is a most notorious Breach thereof, as is evident to a Demonstration.

Finally, Did ever any hear that the worthy Parliament of *Britain*, who is now at war with Heaven, take Cognition for the innocent Blood shed in these Lands, all lying about

about the Throne, to the utter undoing and ruin thereof, or did they ever once enquire into the innocent Blood shed at the Grass Market in *Edinburgh*, *April 14. 1736*, done by *Porteous* and his Cut-throat Soldiers, never a Word, but all buried in deep Silence, nor did they in the least repair and indemnify in no sort any one Person that had their Husbands, Wives Children and Servants killed at that Massacre ; but on the other Hand rewarding and honouring the unhappy Memory of the chief Murderer, with Acts of Persecution in his Favour, pressing them with Hellish Fury and blind Rage, to their everlasting Disgrace and Infamy, so they have taken upon themselves and their Posterity, the guilt of all the innocent Blood, shed in these Lands of Old and of late which cannot fail but bring terrible and dismal Effects, upon their Persons and Families. Ten Times more might be said to discover the wickedness and pernicious consequence of this black Act, which I leave to these that have more Time and of a better Capacity to do it.

To shut up all with a Word to you who are the oppressed People of *Scotland*, you may indeed lament with the Weeping of *Jazer*, and groan under your cruel Task Masters, strange Lords rules over you, which is your Woe and Misery, their  
of

little finger being thicker than the Loynes  
of your former Oppressors. Your sins have  
brought these sad Things upon you and  
you are like to drink deeper in the  
Cup of Affliction, if you return not spe-  
dily to him that smitteth, and Repent, that  
your Sins may be blotted out, which if  
you unfeignedly do, he will return your  
Captivity as the Streams of the South, and  
heal your Land, and disquiet the Inhabi-  
tants of Babylon.

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